

distance makes this area a potential safety hazard. The paved portion of Needmore Road in Swain County has a 35-mph posted speed limit. The unpaved portion is not posted for speed.

3. Traffic Safety Analysis

There was one reported crash along the studied portion of Needmore Road between April 1, 2006 through March 31, 2009. For crash rate purposes, this location can be classified as a 2-lane, undivided rural North Carolina (NC) route. **Table 1** shows the comparison of the crash rates for the analyzed section SR 1364 - SR 1114 versus the 2005-2007 statewide crash rates for a comparable road type and configuration. Current crash rates do not exceed the statewide crash rates or the critical crash rates in any categories.

Table 1: Project Crash Rate Summary

| Rate | Crashes | Crashes per 100MVM | Statewide Rate ¹ | Critical Rate ² |
|------------------|---------|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Total | 1 | 35.64 | 354.02 | 556.45 |
| Fatal | 0 | 0 | 3.93 | 41.78 |
| Non-Fatal Injury | 0 | 0 | 125.75 | 253.85 |
| Night | 0 | 0 | 142.23 | 277.32 |
| Wet | 0 | 0 | 52.64 | 140.75 |

¹ 2005-2007 statewide crash rate for 2-lane, undivided rural North Carolina (NC) routes.

² Based on the statewide crash rate (95% level of confidence).

Crash data is obtained through the North Carolina Crash Database, which is maintained by the Division of Motor Vehicles. Many crashes are unreported for a variety of reasons, particularly in a rural setting. It should be noted that previous three-year period crash statistic analysis has indicated that the Crashes per 100 MVM has historically been as high as 754.72 accidents per 100 MVM on portions of Needmore Road. Historically, the majority of the accidents on Needmore Road have involved a single vehicle running off of the road.

4. System Linkage

Needmore Road is a local road that connects Graham County and Bryson City with Franklin. People commute from Bryson City and areas within Graham County to work and shop in Franklin. Alternate routes must be used when Needmore Road is impassible.

a. Alternate Routes

NC 28. Traffic originating in Graham County or the Needmore community can choose to travel NC 28 to Franklin. The distance is approximately 45 miles from both destinations. The distance is only 17 miles travelling via Needmore Road. NC 28 is a two-lane road with switchback curves. The road hugs the mountain with steep drop-offs and no safety guardrail.

US 19-23-74 to US 441. Traffic originating in Bryson City can use US 19-23-74 to US 441. This route would be approximately 89 miles. To travel to Franklin by way of Needmore Road is approximately 50 miles.